approved the recommendations made by Shri B. K. Chaturvedi Committee as per the summarised details given in the Statement. [Refer to Statement appended to the answer USQ No. 1489 Part (a) to (c)]

It has been decided by the Government that henceforth all changes in the RFQ/ RFP will be carried out by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) on the basis of recommendation of NHAI Board. MCA related issues would be referred to an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MoRT&H with representatives of DEA, Department of Expenditure, Planning Commission and Ministry of Law and Justice. Where there is unanimity in the decision, the same will be then put up to the Minister, Road Transport & Highways for approval. Where there is no unanimity in the decision, the matter will be placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) comprising the Finance Minister, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The recommendations of the Committee headed by Shri B. K. Chaturvedi have been approved recently and many of the concerns of the bidders have been adequately addressed with a view to facilitate their participation in road projects with greater interest.

Arbitration cases of road projects

1491. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that nearly 9000 crore is locked in arbitration cases related to road projects in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has asked Government to set up a road appellate tribunal and mainstream pre-construction and post-construction clearances in order to build a better roads network; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on the views of the World Bank and the steps taken by Government to clear the arbitration cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) There are 163 Arbitration cases comprising approximately 1000 number of disputes amounting to Rs. 8508.77 crores relating to highway projects under National Highway Development Project (NHDP). 85 cases of already published Arbitral Award are pending before different Courts comprising 380 numbers of disputes amounting to Rs. 593.73 crores.

(c) and (d) No formal reference has been received from the World Bank. However, World Bank in its study report of November, 2008 has suggested for setting up a road appellate tribunal for dispute resolution and specialized pre-construction units for environmental, forest and other clearances including land acquisition. Government is seized of the matter relating to expediting dispute resolution process.